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September 23, 2016

The Honourable John McCallum, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

Dear Mr. Minister,

The Catholic Women's League of Canada represents more than 83,000 members and citizens across Canada in every province, territory and in the military. The League's mandate is to take an active role in opposing discrimination wherever and in whatever form it appears. Members uphold the dignity and rights of all people, social and economic justice and help with the needs of developing countries. The League also has had a long standing tradition of welcoming new citizens. In fact, it was for this very important need that the League was founded.

At the 96th annual national convention in August 2016, over 700 League delegates from across Canada were assembled. Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* was adopted. A copy of this resolution is enclosed.

This resolution originated from the concern over long standing foreign workers being forced to exit Canada because they are not eligible to apply for permanent resident status. As a result, it causes a disruption to their lives and often times they must leave their families behind as they return to their countries. Migrant workers have been performing essential work in the agricultural sector for decades due to labour shortages, demonstrating that the need is permanent. It is essential that the rights of the migrant workers, especially those in National Occupational Code C and D, are protected as they are vulnerable to exploitation by the nature of their status in Canada.

On behalf of members, I respectfully urge the federal government to amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* so that foreign workers may apply for permanent resident status regardless of occupational classification. I look forward to hearing from you how the federal government will advocate for a process that will address this issue.

Respectfully yours,

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President

Cc: The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada